2001-03 in the village under P.O. Sansai. In addition there was a registered demand of 71 applicants for fresh telephone connections out of which 26 have been provided the telephone connections and 45 registrants are in the waiting list.

(b) and (c) During last year, 26 subscribers got their demand registered for new telephone connections from far flung areas and they could not be provided telephone connections due to non feasibility. They are likely to get connections progressively before the end of the Financial Year.

FDI sectoral cap in telecom

2570. DR. M.N. DAS : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state :

(a) whether following objections raised by the security agencies to increase the FDI sectoral cap in telecom, the Department of Telecommunications has recommended an alternative route of placing FII investments outside the existing sectoral cap subject to an overall cap of 74 per cent;

(b) if so, whether the proposal of 'Universal licence' regime that is to replace the present system of separate licenses for basic, cellular and long distance operations has also been considered;

(c) if so, to what extent these decisions have been approved and finalised; and

(d) the steps being taken to implement them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) Investment through Foreign Institutional Investors (FIIs) is already allowed in the telecom sector within the sectoral caps. A proposal to allow FIIs investment outside the sectoral cap is at the discussion level only, in which various angles, including those relating to security have been included.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) has however, issued a Consultation Paper on unified licensing and has invited the comments on the same.

Sale of personal computers

2571. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that of Personal Computers is on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the number of Personal Computers sold during the last three years, year-wise;

(c) whether it is also a fact that there is corresponding increase in E-scrap, which is a health hazard;

(d) if so, whether Government proposed to issue guidelines on the safe disposal of computer waste; and

(e) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI SU. THIRUNAVUKKARASAR): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Number of Personal Computers sold during the last three years, are as follows :—

Year	Lakh Units
2000-01	18.8
2001-02	16.7
2002-03	22.9

(c) The quantities used are too small to generate E-scrap of hazardous level

(d) and (e) International guidelines are available for reprocessing E-wastes in an environmentally sound manner. The Central Pollution Control Board has been asked by Ministry of Environment to study these and formulate suitable guidelines, keeping in view, *inter alia*, the composition of E-waste generated in the country.

Branch Post Office at Nandla, Himachal Pradesh

†2572. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to open Branch Post Office in village Nandla, in Shimla of Himachal Pradesh, during the year 2003-04;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.